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KING'S SLAYER IS STILL HUNTED

FBI Continues Search for Assassin

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than a month and a half after the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., FBI agents across the nation are reported still actively searching for the man accused of the killing—James Earl Ray.

FBI headquarters has been silent for weeks on the case, except to say that it still is being actively investigated—and that the bureau is not simply waiting for Ray to turn up some place.

Ray, 40, escaped April 23, 1967, from the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City where he had served eight years of a 20-year sentence for armed robbery.

NEW PHOTOS

The last official statement

from the FBI on Ray was a one-paragraph description issued May 7 along with two new photographs of him.

One, said to be the best photo yet made public of Ray, shows him wearing a dark-checked sport jacket. It was taken earlier this year in California. The others, showing Ray wearing dark glasses, was taken last November as he sat in a night club in Mexico.

Meanwhile, reports continue to appear that Ray has been spotted at a number of places.

Just Thursday, officials in Pottsville, Pa., asked the FBI to supply a dental chart of Ray to determine if he might be a corpse found there.

OTHER REPORTS

Although there have been several reports that Ray may be dead, Justice Department officials have pointed out continually that there is no evidence to support or refute this.

And there have been several cases in which individuals have been questioned by police, who thought the individuals resembled the description of King's accused assassin.

King was shot to death April 4 as he stood on a balcony of a Memphis motel.